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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 07331 231850 Z

52
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 RSR-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 INRE-00 IO-12 DPW-01 /120 W
---------- 004697
P R 231822 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8629
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGJKOK
AMEMBASSY PHNON PENH PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY VIENTIENE
AMCONSUL HON KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07331

E. O. GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: SPECULATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF SIHANOUK

QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS BOLLE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOF EMBASSSY PEKING REPORTS WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THERE CONCERNING WHEREABOUTS AND PLANS OF SIHANOUK. GOF EXPECTS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT FEW DAYS AND DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBLILITY THAT SIHANOUK MAY APPEAR IN FUNK CONTROLLED AREA OF CAMBODIA IN EFFORT TO MOBILIZE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR HIS CAUSE. (BOLLE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PURELY EMBASSY HYPOTHESIS AT THIS TIME.) HE NOTED THAT INVITATIONS FOR PEKING RECEPTION TO BE HELD MARCH 23 COMMEMORATING FOUNDING OF FUNK ISSUED THIS YEAR BY FUNK SARIN CHHAK IN CONTRAST WITH LAST YEAR WHEN INVITATIONS ISSUED IN NAME OF SIHANOUK.

2. DURING CONVERSATION EVENING OF MARCH 22, QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR ARNAUD SPOKE IN LESS CAUTIOUS MANNER THAN BOLLE, STATING THAT GOF HAD STRONG INDICATIONS SIHANOUK MAY ALREADY BE IN CAMBODIA AND MAY SURFACE IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
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3. COMMENT: ARNAUD MAY HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO BOLLE OR HE MAY SIMPLY BE LESS CAUTIOUS IN CHARACTERIZING GOF VIEW. IN ANY CASE, FRENCH CLEARLY WATCHING FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA.
IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BANGJKOK
EA
HON KONG
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VIENTIANE

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